



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Guilty Plea

DEFENDANT: Bradley Paul Taylor, 28 of Rochester Hills, Michigan

Bradley Paul Taylor, age 28, formerly a resident of Rochester Hills, Michigan, has pleaded guilty to charges of making a false distress call to the United States Coast Guard announced United States Attorney Craig S. Morford. Mr. Taylor pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Robert H. Cleland on Tuesday, January 4.

Taylor admitted, through his guilty plea, that on the night of June 1, 2003, he contacted the United States Coast Guard Station Belle Isle, Michigan, on VHF channel 16, the international hailing and distress frequency. In this urgent radio request for assistance, defendant Taylor falsely told the Coast Guard watchstander that his vessel was taking on water in Lake St. Clair and that he was about to lose the use of his radio. The Coast Guard responded quickly to this distress call by sending rescue boats from Coast Guard Stations Belle Isle and St. Clair Shores, Michigan, and launching a rescue helicopter from Coast Guard Air Station Detroit. At the time he made this call Taylor was actually aboard a vessel that was

docked at a Detroit area marina. As a result of this false distress call, the Coast Guard incurred search and rescue expenses of at least \$ 10,718.

“False distress calls not only cost taxpayers money and place U.S. Coast Guard members at increased personal risk, but more importantly, they divert limited resources from mariners who are in actual distress,” stated Captain Paul Preusse, Chief of Operations for the Ninth Coast Guard District.

Taylor was referred to the United States Probation Department for a presentence investigation. Sentence will be imposed under the United States Sentence Guidelines according to the nature of the offense and the criminal background, if any, of the defendant. Under the terms of the plea agreement, the parties will recommend a sentence of no more than 6 months imprisonment, and a fine of no more than \$10,000. In addition, the defendant will be required to reimburse the Coast Guard for the expenses incurred in the search and rescue operation.

Mr. Morford commended the Coast Guard Investigative Service for its successful investigation in this case.